

Rural Veterans Health Access Program



State of Alaska



Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health

Section of Health Planning and
Systems Development
Office of Rural Health



Presentation to the Alaska Health Commission June 14, 2012
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Rural Veterans Health Access Program

Overview

- Funded by P.L. 112-74 – Section 1820 (g)(6) of the Social Security Act
- Funded through HRSA, ORHP, Office of the Advancement of Telemedicine
- Three demonstration projects in the U.S.
 - Alaska
 - Montana
 - Virginia



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Funding Cycle

- Sep 1, 2010 – August 31, 2013
- P.L. 112-74 of the 2012 Federal budget mandated all three RVHAP project revise their scope of work to comply with law
- January 2012, HPSD hired a new project manager for RVHAP and began an intense revision of the scope of work



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Presentation Outline

- Overview of P.L. 112-74
- Accomplishments in first 1.5 years
- Other parallel efforts and avoiding duplication
- Discussion of Preliminary System Gap Analysis
- Overview of Revised Goals of Alaska's RVHAP and status of project



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Funded by P.L. 112-74 – Section 1820 (g)(6) of the Social Security Act

“Grant funds to be used for the purchase and implementation of telehealth services, including pilot and demonstrations on the use of electronic health records to coordinate rural veterans care between rural providers.”



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Accomplishments in First Year of Project

- Networking
 - DBH
 - VA
 - Maniilaq
 - ASHNHA
 - TriCare
- Core steering team
- Meetings and trainings
- Door hanger for VA benefit enrollment



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Other Parallel Efforts and Avoiding Duplication

- MOA between the VA and the Alaska Tribal Health System
- VA project in Sitka with SEARHC and a telehealth coordinator, TVR trainings, VA vendorizing
- 13th Work Group – VA collaborative group looking at rural health



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Other Parallel Efforts and Avoiding Duplication

(continued)

- 13th Work Group (cont)
 - Picked three focuses of twelve
 - Increase access
 - Improve coordination
 - Increase availability of services in accordance with the law



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Revising Work Plan Using a System Gap Analysis

- Three goals from 13 Work Group List in-line with P.L. 112-74 not being focused on by the VA
 - Improve care through telehealth technology
 - Enhance access by developing and implementing new models of care using new technologies
 - Increase capability and improve quality through training and workforce development



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Revising Work Plan Using a System Gap Analysis

(continued)

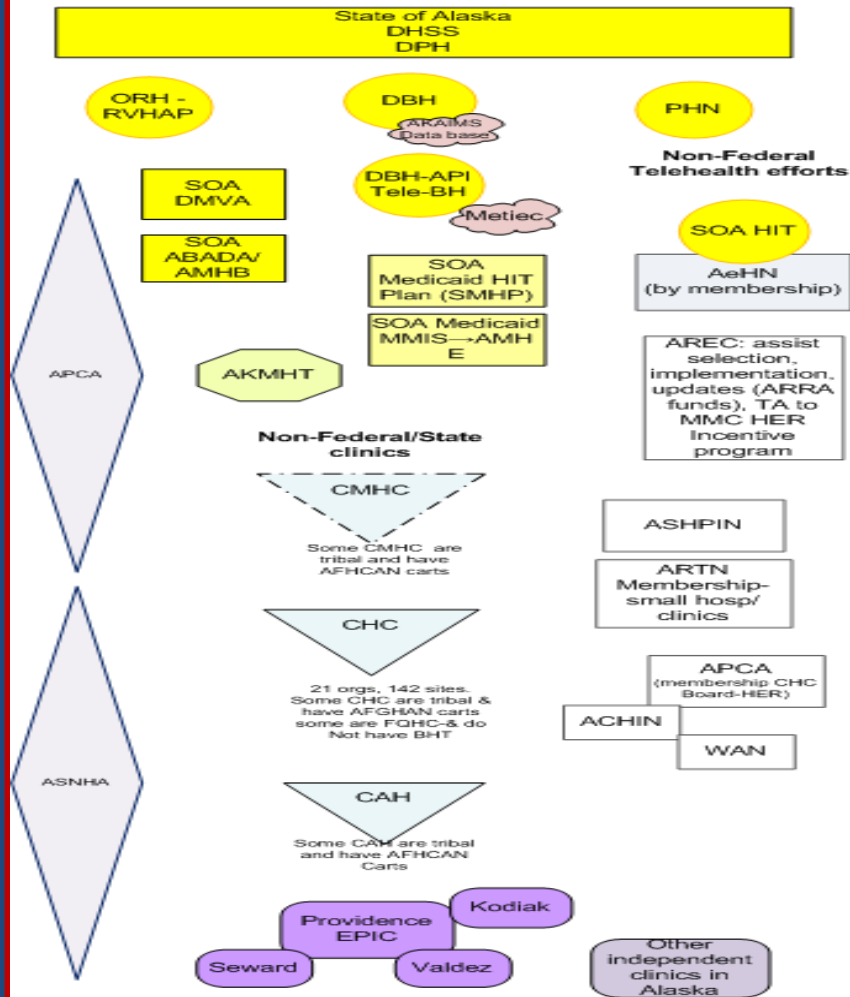
- Develop mind map of current telehealth players
- System Gap Analysis
 - Develop spread sheet of all current health care facilities in SE AK
 - Focus areas of System Gap Analysis
 - Type of facility (Tribal, CHC, CAH, PHN)
 - VA Approved Vendor (Vendorized)
 - Gaps in Telebehavioral health networks



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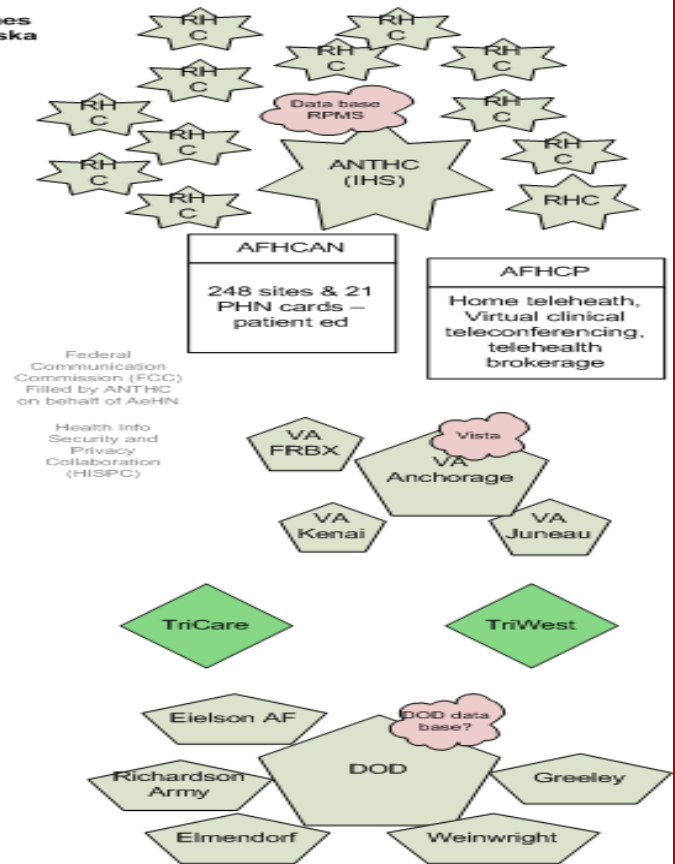
DRAFT Telehealth Players in Alaska
by non-Federal and Federal Systems of Care

Non- Federal Health Care System



Federal Health Care System

FCC Bridge Lines throughout Alaska



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Revising Work Plan Using a System Gap Analysis

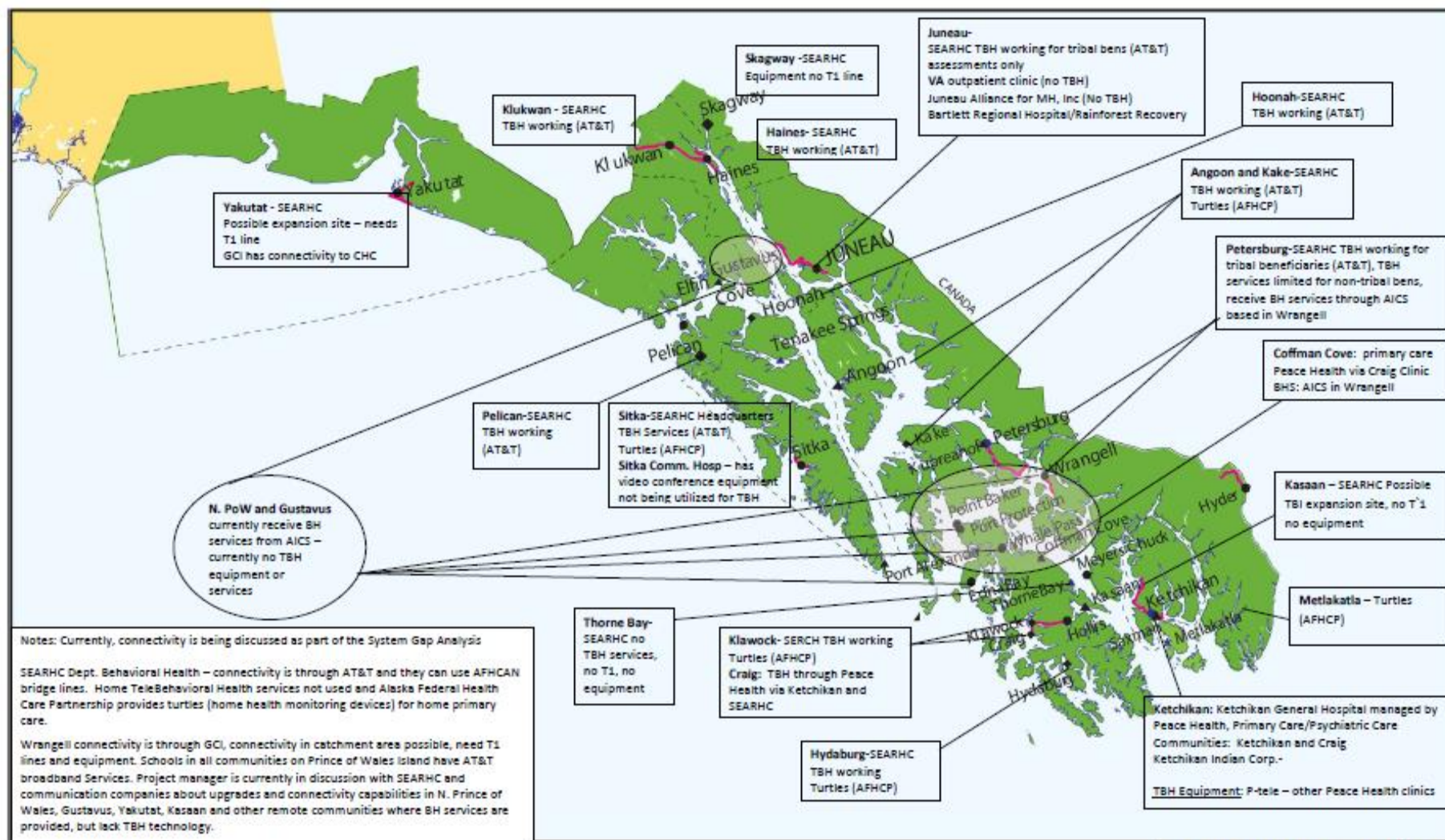
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- Assessment of connectivity and equipment costs
- Determine type of equipment that would be most cost effective given technological capabilities



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Preliminary Finding of System Gap Analysis of Current Telebehavioral Health Networks in Southeast Alaska



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Equipment Costs and Technology

Connection and Equipment Costs to set up a TBH network in AICS Catchment Area	Point 2 Point	Point 2 Point	Internet /computer	Internet /computer
T1 connection onetime expense	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Monthly fee for T1 connection without subsidy from RHC Universal Services funding (\$8,000 + 150 internet access x12 months)	\$97,800		\$97,800	
Monthly fee for T1 connection with subsidy from RHC Universal Services Funding (\$300 +150 internet access x 12 months)		\$5,400		\$5,400
Estimated equipment costs	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$2,300	\$2,300
Total	\$118,800	\$26,400	\$101,100	\$8,700

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Revising Work Plan Using a System Gap Analysis

(continued)

- Conduct planning meeting with the VA, Alaska Health Education Center (AHEC), DBH DMVA about provider trainings and Vendorizing
- Develop Linkage and scope of work agreements with DBH and AHEC



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Revised Goals of RVHAP

Goal 1: Implement demonstration project that provides access to and increases the delivery of quality mental health services and other health care services to Veterans in remote communities in SE AK through...



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Revised Goals of RVHAP

Goal 1

...Through:

- The development and deployment of a telehealth network
- Use of electronic health information exchanges
- In-person and on-line health provider training/distant learning



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Revised Goals of RVHAP

Goal 1

Objective A: by 9-31-2013 increase access to behavioral health services for Veterans living in rural and remote communities of SE AK by enhancing existing TBH capabilities

Objective B: Rural pilot of the AeHN's "Ax the Fax" campaign for BH services



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Revised Goals of RVHAP & Current Status

Goal 1

Objective C: increase quality of BH services provided to veterans by increasing knowledge among health providers about military culture, screening for VA status, PTSD, TBI and other health issues common among veterans

Objective D: Establish on-line on-demand VA approved trainings for distance delivery education state-wide



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Revised Goals of RVHAP & Current Status

Goal 1

Objective E: Outreach to primary care and BH providers and associations state-wide to provide information about the availability of on-line training tools aimed at improving delivery of health care to Veterans



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Revised Goals of RVHAP & Current Status

Goal 2a: Increase the number of Veterans enrolled in VA benefits within demonstration area

Objective A: Develop a community information campaign in clinical and non-clinical settings to increase Veterans' enrollment in VA services

Objective B: "Change Agent" training among BH providers



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Revised Goals of RVHAP & Current Status

Goal 2b: Increase the number of non-tribal health care facilities in SE AK that are VA approved Vendors

Objective A: Conduct regional analysis, work with APCA, ASHNA, and the VA to provide necessary resources to encourage non-tribal health facilities to become vendors



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Revised Goals of RVHAP & Current Status

Goal 3: I.D. where and how existing networks can be improved, expanded, or linked to increase access to services that meet the MH needs of rural Veterans living in the selected demonstration area in SE AK



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Revised Goals of RVHAP & Current Status

Goal 3:

Objective A: Establish and Maintain Core Steering Committee

Objective B: Secure any necessary working agreement between members of Core Steering Team



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Revised Goals of RVHAP & Current Status

Goal 4: Consulting with the ASHNHA, APCA, CHC, and other stakeholders for the provision of services and activities



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Revised Goals of RVHAP & Current Status

Goal 4

Objective A: Development and execution of TBH system in demonstration area and upgrade equipment where needed to improve access and quality of care for Veterans



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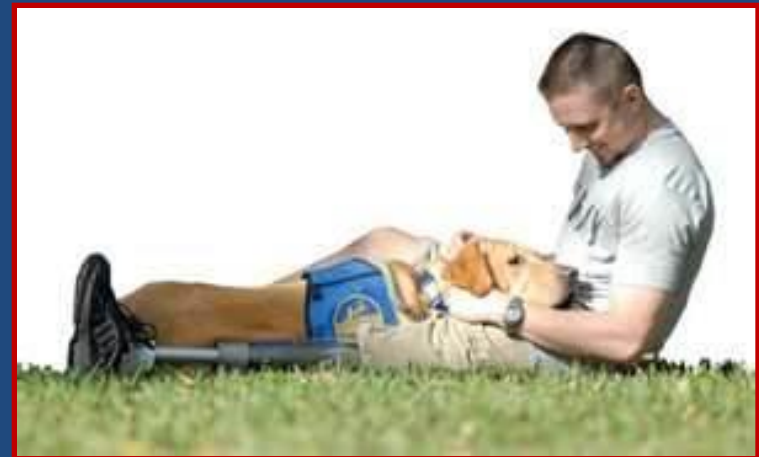
Current Status of Project

- Core Steering Team
- Secured internal collaboration with SOA DMVA and HIT
- System development for on-line training/educational system for health providers



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- Information campaign to increase enrollment in VA benefits
 - drinking establishments
 - homeless shelters
 - substance abuse clinics
 - grocery stores
- Connectivity testing for TBH network



The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right.

Thank You

*for serving our country &
protecting our freedoms!*